

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CCMS PLENARY APRIL 8-9 BRUSSELS

PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING LETTER TO PROFESSOR DR. L. VON MANGER-KOENIG FROM DR. ROGER O. EGEBERG, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH POLICY. BEGIN TEXT:

"1. TEX HARRIS TOLD ME OF HIS VERY USEFUL DISCUSSION WITH YOU EARLIER THIS MONTH AND SUGGESTED THAT I FOLLOW UP PERSONALLY ON THE MATTER OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT ON IRON IN BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS.

2. THIS STUDY IS OUTGROWTH OF AUTOMATION OF CLINICAL LABORATORIES PROJECT. THE OBJECTIVE TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF A STANDARD REFERENCE METHOD ON INTERNATIONAL CLINICAL LABORATORY PRACTICE. ACL WORKING GROUP IS OF OPINION THAT SUCH A STUDY WOULD LEAD TO UNIVERSAL ADVANCES IN ACCURACY OF CLINICAL LABORATORY TESTING AND WILL BE INCLUDING IN ITS FINAL REPORT A RECOMMENDATION THAT SUCH A STUDY BE UNDERTAKEN.

3. A MAJOR OBSTACLE TO IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT IS
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FINANCING AND WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY

OF UTILIZING THE SO-CALLED "GERMAN OFFSET FUNDS".

4. AS YOU ARE AWARE, THESE GERMAN OFFSET FUNDS ARE DERIVED THROUGH AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS PROVIDING FOR THE FRG TO SPEND A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF MONEY IN THE U.S. WITHIN A SPECIFIED PERIOD OF TIME TO OFFSET CERTAIN U.S. EXPENDITURES IN GERMANY. THE HISTORY OF OFFSET FUNDING, FROM DHEW'S PERSPECTIVE, DATES BACK APPROXIMATELY TWO YEARS WHEN WE WERE ASKED BY THE DOS TO SUGGEST HEALTH PROJECTS FOR SUPPORT THROUGH THIS MECHANISM. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IN APRIL 1974, THE FRG AGREED THAT SOME OF THIS MONEY WOULD BE USED FOR RESEARCH, INCLUDING THE FIELD OF HEALTH.

5. ALTHOUGH CONSIDERABLE INTEREST EXPRESSED IN HEALTH ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF BIOMATERIALS, NO SPECIFIC HEALTH PROPOSALS WERE PUT FORTH BY YOUR GOVERNMENT. IN LATE 1974, WE DECIDED TO PROPOSE IRON STUDY FOR OFFSET FUNDING. WE DID VIA TELEGRAM TO OUR EMBASSY DECEMBER 1974. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT EMBASSY THEN PASSED PROPOSAL TO MINISTRY OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY SO THAT THEY WOULD CONSULT WITH MINISTRY FOR YOUTH, FAMILY AND HEALTH.

6. BECAUSE OFFSET FUNDING IS RESPONSIBILITY OF GERMAN MINISTRY OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY AND HEALTH IS RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MINISTRY FOR YOUTH, FAMILY AND HEALTH, WE UNDERSTAND THAT ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WITH RESPECT TO FUNDING A HEALTH PROJECT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE.

7. IF YOU BELIEVE THIS PROJECT WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO THE MINISTRY FOR YOUTH, FAMILY AND HEALTH, I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR FOLLOWING UP ON IT PERSONALLY TO ASCERTAIN STATUS.

8. AS YOU MAY KNOW, THE NEXT CCMS PLENARY IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 8-9 IN BRUSSELS. I WOULD BE DELIGHTED IF YOU COULD PRESENT THE REPORT ON THE ORGANIZED AMBULATORY HEALTH SERVICES PROJECT.

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9. I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING WITH YOU AGAIN SOON.
SINCERELY YOURS,
ROGER O. EGEBERG, M.D.
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY
FOR HEALTH POLICY"
KISSINGER

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